Railway apprentices courses of officers

1871. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the requirement of officers for all the zonal Railways for which the Railways conduct apprentice courses;

(b) if so, what is the extent of requirement generated during the last 3 years and to what extent they could be filled by the Railway trained apprentices; and

(c) whether there is a need to expand the existing training facilities to cope with the growing demand of the Railways; if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Only in Mechanical Department of the Indian Railways, the requirement of officers is partly met by recruitment as Apprentices. Such assessment is done annually for the Indian Railways as a whole.

(b) Every year, the assessment to be filled by this mode is worked out taking into account various factors including the actual materialisation in the previous year. Thus the assessments made in the years 1985, 1986, 1987 were 20, 27 & 29 respectively. Recruitments were accordingly processed and any shortfalls due to medical unfitness etc. carried forward to the next year.

(c) Adequate training facilities are available to cater for the present requirement.

School for the Children of Railway Employees

1872. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have formulated any plan for the education of children of railway employees all over the country;

(b) if so, what are the criteria evolved to locate schools run by the railways at less important railway stations where the children do not get an alternative source of good education;

(c) what is the total number of schools which are now being run by the railways and whether they are mostly clustered in urban areas;

(d) if not, what is the urban-rural breakup of such schools; and

(e) what is the number of schools proposed to be set up during the next two years—with their locations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Provision of educational facilities is primarily the task of State Government|Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, Railways have provided purely as a welfare measure, a large number of Railway Schools at different stations, where there is concentration of Railway employees to meet their needs, and where such facilities are not available or are found inadequate, subject to availability of funds. In addition, Kendriya Vidayalayas in Railway colonies have been set up.

(c) Total number of schools run by the Railways is 684. These schools are not mostly clustered in urban areas.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no proposal to set up new Railway Schools. Efforts are being made to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Passenger facilities in trains

1873. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the scales prescribed for providing facilities in first class